

House Bill 401

April 4, 2013

Presented by M. Jeff Hagener
Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Jeff Hagener, Director, for the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here today in support of House Bill 401.

HB 401 will create a nonrefundable application fee for Moose, Sheep, Goat, and Wild Bison of \$10 for resident and \$50 for nonresidents. This will allow individuals to apply with less money upfront. Currently a resident pays \$80 for Moose, Sheep and Goat to apply for each license, \$240 per person for three species. Under HB 401, if the applicant is successful in drawing a license, the applicant will be required to purchase the appropriate license they drew. If the license is not purchased by the deadline, the next individual on the drawing list will be notified and provided the opportunity to purchase the license.

HB 401 will also change the preference points system, which is a Bonus Points system, from per application to per species. This will encourage individuals to only apply Bonus Points to the species they really desire. Currently with Bonus Points on a per application basis, once an applicant decides to participate in the Bonus Point system for one species, the applicant simply checks Bonus Point participation for all the species they are applying for since they only pay one fee. This diminishes the overall effect of the Bonus Points system by allowing individuals to obtain Bonus Points by default rather than by a true desire to participate in the Bonus Point system for that species.

The passage of HB 401 will allow more individuals the opportunity to apply for coveted Moose, Sheep, Goat and Bison license and the Department requests a "do pass".

Thank you.